

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 03177 200906Z

17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 ITF-05 INSE-00 H-02

SCA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PM-03 VO-03 DODE-00 AID-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /071 W

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P R 200601Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5760

INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMEMBASSY BERN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 3177

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CB

SUBJECT: CAMBODIAN AND VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATS REQUESTS FOR ASYLUM

REF: (A) GENEVA 3545;

(B) STATE 104940;

(C) STATE 107844;

(D) CANBERRA 2927

1. EMBASSY STRONGLY ENDORSES PROPOSAL PUT FORWARD BY DEPUTY UNHCR MACE IN REF A THAT A PORTION OF THE PAROLE QUOTA BE SET ASIDE FOR THOSE CAMBODIAN AND VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATS CURRENTLY IN THIRD COUNTRIES WHO WISH TO RESETTLE PERMANENTLY IN THE UNITED STATES.

2. EMBASSY WAS GRATIFIED BY REFTEL B WHICH STATED THAT DEPARTMENT WAS SYMPATHETIC WITH PLIGHT OF CAMBODIAN AND VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATS WHO HAVE REQUESTED POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE US AND
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PAGE 02 CANBER 03177 200906Z

WAS WORKING WITH UNHCR TO REACH A SOLUTION. FOR THIS REASON,

DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO ASYLUM REQUESTS FOR FORMER VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATS VO DINH KHOAI AND DO THIEU LIET AND THEIR FAMILIES (REF C) WAS DEEPLY DISAPPOINTING. EMBASSY IS STILL AWAITING RESPONSE FROM DEPARTMENT ON PAROLE OF FORMER GKR DIPLOMAT MAM NEARIN AND HIS FAMILY INTO THE U.S. (REF D).

3. EMBASSY APPRECIATES AND UNDERSTANDS DIMENSIONS OF PROBLEM FACING USG AND FACT THAT EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO RESETTLE A FAIR NUMBER OF THESE VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN THIRD COUNTRIES. BUT IT SEEMS TO US THAT MORE THAN GENERAL PRINCIPLES ARE INVOLVED. MESSRS KHOAI, LIET, AND NEARIN HAVE SERVED THEIR COUNTRIES LOYALLY AND WELL AND COOPERATED GENEROUSLY WITH THE U.S. IN THE PURSUIT OF COMMON GOALS. A NUMBER OF THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS AND CLOSE FRIENDS ARE NOW EITHER IN OR ON THEIR WAY TO THE UNITED STATES AS REFUGEES. WE IMAGINE THIS IS THE CASE WITH OTHER VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATS WHO FIND THEMSELVES IN THIRD COUNTRIES AS WELL. IT WOULD BE HUMANE AND IN THE BEST TRADITIONS OF OUR COUNTRY IF WE PAROLLED THESE FORMER CAMBODIAN AND VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS INTO THE U.S. TO BEGIN TO BUILD A NEW LIFE TOGETHER WITH THEIR FAMILIES. WE DOUBT THAT THE NUMBER INVOLVED WOULD BE LARGE IN ANY CASE. THE DIMENSIONS OF THE REFUGEE PROBLEM ARE SUCH THAT IT MAKES LITTLE SENSE TO MAKE INVIDIOUS COMPARISONS

BETWEEN SOME OF THOSE REFUGEES WHO ARE ON THE WAY IN AND SOME WHO ARE STILL SEEKING TO ENTER U.S. HOWEVER, IT DOES APPEAR TO THIS EMBASSY THAT WE OUGHT TO MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO ASSIST OUR FORMER DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES WITH WHOM WE WORKED FOR MANY YEARS.
GREEN

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